

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Allowed Claims 16 through 19, 26 through 29, and 36 are pending, with Claims 16, 26, and 36 being independent. The rejected claims, Claims 1, 3 through 15, 20, 22 through 25, 30, and 32 through 35, have been cancelled without prejudice, thereby obviating the rejections thereto which are respectfully traversed.

REQUEST FOR RETURN OF FORM PTO-1449

Applicant respectfully notes that the arrow drawn by the Examiner on the December 9, 2003 Information Disclosure Citation Form (Form PTO-1449) does not appear to extend to the last-cited document, U.S. Patent No. 6,333,761 B2; so Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner extend the arrow to confirm the Examiner's consideration of this document. Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Daniel S. Glueck/
Daniel S. Glueck
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,838

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

DSCGjjr

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